

10/707,288

DE920020040US1

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 12 remain in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended for which there is support in the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed. Claims 13 to 15 have been canceled without prejudice.

Reconsideration of the Examiner's decisions and reexamination of this application are respectfully requested.

The §103 rejections:

Claims 1 to 14 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over McCulloch et al. U.S. Patent 6,060,212 in view of Brewer et al. U.S. Patent 4,950,583.

Claims 13 and 14 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 15 therein, thereby making claim 1 allowable, as well as claims dependent thereon, and rendering the above rejection moot.

Allowable subject matter:

Claim 15 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The subject matter of claim 15 has been incorporated into claim 1, thereby making claim 1 allowable. Claim 15 has been canceled. Since claims 2 to 12 depend from claim 1, claims 2 to 12 should be allowable as well. Claims 13 and 14 have also been canceled.

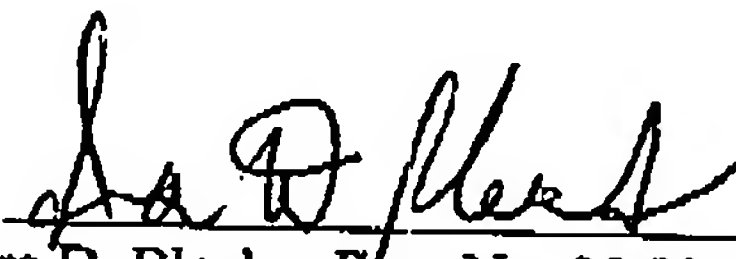
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Summary:

In view of all of the preceding remarks, all of claims 1 to 12 should be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner finds this application deficient in any respect, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve such deficiency.

Respectfully Submitted,
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